



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

September 2010

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Stewardship Class

Are you concerned about the health and future of Virginia's rivers and the **Chesapeake Bay**? Do you have a passion for improving your community and an interest in meeting other Chesapeake Bay lovers? Do you want to make a difference but aren't quite sure where to start? If so, CBF's **VoiCeS** program is looking for you.

VoiCeS, which stands for "Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards," is an adult education program that provides important information on subjects affecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries then develop a plan of action to take that new-found knowledge and make a difference in their own communities.

Registration is now open for the program, and is accessible by clicking on the following link:

<http://vcnva.org/anx/ass/library/35/voicesflyer.pdf>. Class dates run from September 14 through November 2, 2010. There is a \$25 materials fee for the class.

Calendar of Events

September 15-17: [2010 Annual Conference of the Southwest Virginia Solid Waste Management Association](#), Bristol

September 17-18: [Virginia Environmental Assembly](#), Virginia Beach

September 22: [Potomac Watershed Trash Summit 2010](#), Washington, D.C.

September 23-October 3: [Virginia State Fair and Green Expo](#), Doswell

October 12-14: [Governor's Conference on Energy](#), Richmond.

November 7-11: [SERDC's 2010 Recycling Summit](#), Point Clear, Alabama.

November 15: America/Virginia Recycles Day

Did You Know?

- The **City of Norfolk** has joined the Curbside Value Partnership (CVP), a Keep America Beautiful (KAB) program, in order to increase awareness for recycling in the community.
- In conjunction with the **Governor's Conference on Energy** in October (see Calendar of Events below), there will be a **Green Jobs Fair** at the Greater Richmond Convention Center on October 14 from 2-6 PM. Lt. Governor Bill Bolling will host the Green Jobs Fair.

DEA Heads First-Ever Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and government, community, public health and law enforcement partners today announced a nationwide prescription drug "Take-Back" initiative that seeks to prevent increased pill abuse and theft. DEA will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted **prescription drugs** for destruction at sites nationwide on **Saturday, September 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time**. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards. **Collection sites in every local community can be found by going to www.dea.gov**. This site will be continuously updated with new take-back locations.

For further guidance on disposal options for pharmaceuticals, visit the following DEQ website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpdes/Microconstituents.html>.

Virginia State Parks Trail Quest

You love the outdoors; you love our Virginia State Parks; so why not join in a program that rewards you for visiting as many parks as you can! Virginia has one of the widest varieties of plant and animal life in America and Virginia's parks are the places to take in this natural wonder first hand. Whether it is a vigorous climb for a scenic mountain view, a casual stroll along a beach, or a quick trip to a park to let the kids burn off some energy on a wooded walkway, **the Virginia State Park trails system has something for everyone**. Make it your personal goal to hike them all.

It's easy to sign up and take part in the Virginia State Parks Trail Quest. Just sign up and then start visiting. Attractive pins are rewarded for your visits, starting with your very first park. Pins are also rewarded after visiting 5, 10, and 20 parks; and there is a special pin and medallion for visiting every state park in Virginia. Sign up, print the parks checklist, and get started on your adventure.

How it works: [Follow this link](#) to join the **On Line Community**. Select the Virginia State Parks Trail Quest program in the Member Profile. An email will be sent to you to validate your membership. Once your Membership is confirmed, another email will be sent to you with a link to print the Parks Checklist to track your visits to parks. Each park has a Secret Park Code that you will need to find in order to claim your prize. The Secret Park Code can be found on the electronic kiosk at the park or by visiting the park office or visitor center. As you reach the rewards level for parks visited, sign in and complete the on-line rewards claim form using the Claim Your Reward icon. Don't forget to complete a form for your very first park visit!

While you're there: Ask the Park Rangers and staff how recycling works in the park, and what is being done to prevent littering in the park. Let them understand you appreciate their efforts to keep the parks clean and enjoyable.

1-800-Recycling and GenGreenLife.com

Two online recycling websites have teamed up to increase their recycling location offerings for consumers. The two organizations have agreed to pool their resources and exchange recycling location listings from their respective databases.

Via its mobile App, online resource and phone service, 1-800-Recycling provides information about recycling services and facilities, searchable by city or ZIP code. GenGreen maintains a database of accredited green businesses and organizations in North America, with a growing group of almost 75,000 companies currently in their system. As part of the agreement, 1-800-Recycling.com will now also be recommending GenGreen approved recyclers as responsible locations for the deposit of recycling materials.

For more information visit <http://1800recycling.com> and www.GenGreenLife.com. Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

Recycled Asphalt

When PennDOT finishes rebuilding Raccoon Creek Road in Beaver County, it will contain material recycled from at least 15 state roads. The road transplant, of sorts, is becoming a common operation on the region's less-traveled roads as PennDOT looks for ways to cut costs during what state officials call a transportation funding crisis. The recycled material is up to 10 times cheaper than traditional asphalt.

The district started using cold, recycled asphalt three years ago to rebuild roads in outlying areas -- generally ones with fewer than 2,000 vehicles a day. "It's softer than (traditional) asphalt, so you can't use it on busy roads," Jeff Karr of PennDOT's District 11 said. The material is made from asphalt that is milled and collected during road construction projects. The millings are crushed, ground and injected with oil and water before being applied and rolled. The road is sealed with tar and chips or a thin layer of asphalt.

Asphalt is a by-product of oil refining. Interest was renewed in 2006 and 2007 when fuel prices soared, Newcomb said. "It's a win-win for everyone," Newcomb said. "Departments of transportation are saving money, and it's definitely a good thing environmentally, in terms of there being less aggregate (used in asphalt) being taken out of quarries and the oil saved. The beauty is, you can continually recycle."

By **Tom Fontaine**
PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Sunday, August 22, 2010

Email Attachments have Environmental Impacts

A recent story from the **Mother Earth Network** (www.mnn.com) talks about e-mails — especially those with attachments — and how much energy is used to store and transmit them. According to Matthew Yeager, a data storage expert who works for the U.K. data services and solutions company, these emails still use energy and create greenhouse gas emissions, even if you don't print them. Last month, Yeager told the BBC that sending an e-mail attachment of 4.7 megabytes — the equivalent of about four photos taken on a point-and-shoot digital camera — creates as much greenhouse gas as boiling your tea kettle 17.5 times.

The bottom line: Avoid sending giant attachments if you can. "In the last five or 10 years a lot of people have added these 'think before you print' signatures to their e-mails," says Yeager. "Well we should all have 'think before you attach.'" Yeager's suggestion: Instead of sending photos directly to all your friends and family members, upload them to central locations like Flickr or Facebook.

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